

## AREA 21 + action

### Updated profile of EID Järve

#### What is this paper about?

AREA 21 + action follows up on AREA 21. In the predecessor project, the consortium developed the so-called Energy Improvement District (EID). The energy actors in these areas, including the local and regional authorities, energy providers, building owners as well as citizens, have participated through the EIDs in a cooperative energy planning process. This resulted in the development of EID Strategies and Action Plans to support improved energy efficiency.

AREA 21 + action provides the frame in which first measures from selected EIDs can be implemented and the potential of the EID concept to contribute meaningfully to both integrated energy planning and emissions reductions can be demonstrated.

This briefing paper shows how the EID Järve approaches this task, i.e. how they implement their Action Plan developed in the predecessor project. For further information about the EID Järve, please refer to <https://area21-project.eu/pilot-areas/kohtla-jarve/>



## Achievements so far

**Achievement 1:** Twelve typical historical buildings were chosen and analysed in the central Järve District of the City of Kohtla-Järve. Energy saving calculations and thermographic analyses were carried out in order to understand and summarize the current technical status and scope of disadvantages in typical buildings. The aim of this activity was to categorize and prioritize concrete measures and to propose a number of concrete activities that are necessary for achieving a better indoor climate and for raising energy efficiency in analysed and similar residential historical buildings.

**Achievement 2:** The city government has developed the awareness of citizens and housing association representatives on the topic of energy efficiency through consumption and smart renovation planning, as well as through presenting specific measures and possibilities for increasing indoor climate quality. A network of stakeholders has been activated to create a form of continuous and efficiently-coordinated cooperation throughout renovation planning processes among housing associations and property owners.

**Achievement 3:** The city of Kohtla-Järva has promoted behavioural change through introducing and consulting owners on usage of new ICT-solutions and promoting informational campaigns for energy saving. Housing associations were assisted and guided on using energy consumption monitoring system. (<http://emonitor.trea.ee>)

## Vision and actions for the extension phase

EID Järve District has a strong and efficient stakeholder cooperation as well as an active network of housing associations. Renovation planning processes for historical residential buildings have started and are well-coordinated, and citizens and homeowners are being made aware of their energy consumption, using smart ICT solutions in order to improve consumption behavior. A younger generation of citizens is being involved in awareness-raising activities on energy efficiency and environmental topics through school programs. Energy and environment study possibilities are well promoted in schools and local youth sees themselves returning and working in the region in energy industry fields.

### Action 1: Historic renovation piloting

3 typical historical residential buildings will be chosen to participate in activities as pilots to kick off the decision making for renovation among residents of historical buildings in the EID. The housing associations involved will receive guidance and expert consultations throughout the renovation planning process, including applying for funding programs. In return, this activity will reveal insights – and identify challenges – of the whole process from the owner’s perspective, helping to solve general “bottlenecks” of renovation planning and implementation in the area. Chosen buildings will receive full renovation project documentation, including energy saving calculations past renovation.

This activity will be coordinated and supervised by the EID coordinators and will result in a step-by-step pilot experience, as well as improvement in the process coordination.

### Action 2: Trust-building

Housing associations and residents of the EID will gather in round-table meetings in order to handle current and general topics of discussion. The aim of this activity is to bring together interested parties, strengthen the cooperation and networking among private and public actors, and to establish a foundation for efficient benchmarking and learning experiences. Topics of discussion are prepared and suggested by the participants, ensuring that the stakeholders’ initiative and perspectives are taken into account.

### Action 3: Energy Efficiency and Environment early education Program

In cooperation with Eesti Energia, a number of study tours and guest lectures will be held at Kohtla-Järve Gümnaasium (high school). Energy efficiency, environment and energy industry topics will be introduced through organizing energy industry site visits, expert speakers, and introduction to future study options and pathways in energy-related fields. The aim of this activity is to involve and raise awareness of the younger generations: young adults and citizens who are about to choose their profession and specialization. See more at <https://www.energia.ee/en/too-ja-praktika/opime-uheskoos>

## Potentials and expected results

**Goal 1:** Kicking off the renovation process in historical area of Town of Kohtla-Järve, Järve EID.

Supporting pilot buildings throughout the renovation planning processes allows pilots to serve as lighthouse examples for other historical residential buildings. Exchanging experiences and involving experts allows for the generation of a clear overview of challenges and solutions throughout the planning process. The EID coordinator “walks” side-by side with housing association throughout the planning and decision-making process, documentation, and application for funding, helping owners by providing support and accurate information.

**Goal 2:** Active and efficiently coordinated stakeholder network that supports achieving goals of improving energy efficiency in the EID.

The EID coordinator organizes and moderates round-table and back-to back meetings, gathering interested parties and experts in order to raise residents’ awareness and cooperation in the EID.

**Goal 3:** Raised awareness on energy efficiency, environment, and energy industry fields

Through implementing topics in early education programs, it is possible to engage and attract more people in early stages of the planning process. Energy efficiency and environmental awareness can be easily introduced in school education programs and will help to involve future decision-makers.